



Fall/Winter 2007-8



Selenite chandeliers in the Chandelier Ballroom (Lechuguilla Cave)

Photo by Gavin Newman

IN THIS MODERN AGE OF SATELLITE images, remote sensing and Google Earth it can be difficult to imagine discovering new places on our planet earth. Yet here at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, cave explorers are still discovering unknown passages and rooms that no satellite or other remote sensing technology can detect in a special place called Lechuguilla Cave. Lechuguilla Cave is the longest of the 113 known caves in the park. Imagine the excitement and awe we would experience if a new geyser was discovered in Yellowstone National Park that was larger than any of the previously known geysers. What if Mesa Verde National Park revealed the recent discovery of a cliff dwelling larger than any previously known containing artifacts that had never been seen anywhere else? As unrealistic as these scenarios are for the above ground portions of national parks, this is exactly what has been occurring below the surface of Carlsbad Caverns National Park for the past 21 years in a wonderful place called Lechuguilla Cave.

In 1914, Lechuguilla Cave was first documented as a bat guano mining claim. Guano was mined for use as a nitrogen-rich fertilizer for California orchards. Guano mining proved unprofitable at this location and was

soon abandoned. All that the guano miners left was a guano hopper for filtering rocks out of the guano and a small test pit. The extent of Lechuguilla Cave was known to be about 500 feet long with a 50-foot deep entrance pit. Those early guano miners surely must have noticed the strong winds issuing from between the rocks, guano and dirt that filled the bottom of the entrance pit. Perhaps as they took a break from their work they wondered where all of that airflow was coming from. Certainly cave explorers visiting the cave in later years noticed the tremendous airflow and wondered about the amount of cave that must exist on the other side of the fill.

In 1984, cavers under National Park Service (NPS) supervision initiated a digging project in Lechuguilla Cave to find the source of the air. On Memorial Day weekend 1986, after digging through rubble, dust and wind for 40 feet, a breakthrough was made into large unexplored passages that just kept going and going. Those first explorers were excited, but even in their wildest dreams they probably didn't imagine the miles of cave passages, unique formations and microbes that would be found.

After 21 years of discovery and research in

Lechuguilla Cave 120 miles of cave has been surveyed making it the fifth longest cave in the world. Winds more than 60 miles per hour have been recorded near the entrance, indicating that much more cave remains to be found. Lechuguilla Cave is 1,604 feet deep making it the deepest limestone cave in the United States. Although Lechuguilla Cave is longer and deeper than Carlsbad Cavern, the Big Room still remains the largest room in any cave in the U.S. Lechuguilla is the longest of the 113 known caves in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. An average of 2-3 miles of previously unknown cave is explored and surveyed every year in Lechuguilla Cave. In fact, as you are reading this article it is quite possible that someone is taking the first steps into a previously unknown passage.

Lechuguilla contains one of the world's largest known displays of selenite chandeliers in a room called the Chandelier Ballroom. Lechuguilla Cave was the first cave in the world where cave formations called helictites, previously known to only form above water were found growing under water. Large deposits of canary yellow, elemental sulfur occur in Lechuguilla that smell like firecrackers. Lechuguilla Cave contains massive gypsum cave deposits on a scale never ...continued on pg. 3

America the Beautiful— The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass



Your Annual Pass provides you with a full year of enjoyment at America's beautiful lakes, rivers and seashores, wildlife refuges, outstanding cultural and historic sites, and some of the world's most magnificent forests, parks and monuments.

The Annual Pass covers Entrance Fees or Standard Amenity Fees (campground fees are not covered) managed by the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. For more details see page 5 inside.

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NPS Photo /Michael Haynie

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Telephone and Web Directory

Official National Park Service sites include .gov in their web address.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

400 Pine Canyon
Salt Flat, TX 79847
915-828-3251
www.nps.gov/gumo

Carlsbad Caverns

Guadalupe Mountains Association

Operates both parks' bookstores. Books may also be purchased by mail or online.
P.O. Box 1417
Carlsbad, NM 88221
575-785-2486
575-785-2318 FAX
www.ccgma.org

Food, Lodging and Camping

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

575-887-6516
www.carlsbadchamber.com

Van Horn Texas Visitors Bureau

915-283-2682
www.vanhornadvocate.com/community-adl.shtml

Weather Conditions

Carlsbad Weather Watch

575-885-1848

Road Conditions

New Mexico: 800-432-4269

Texas: 800-452-9292

Emergency: Call 911

Greetings

WELCOME TO CARLSBAD CAVERNS AND GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS National Parks. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, a World Heritage Site since 1995, features a spectacular cave system of highly decorated chambers. Guadalupe Mountains National Park protects one of the world's best examples of a fossilized reef. Both parks are located within the Chihuahuan Desert, a fascinating place to explore desert life.

Fall and Winter bring their own special rewards. From late-October to early-November the colorful changes in maples, ash, and sumac delight thousands of visitors to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the summertime crowds are gone and the cave can be experienced in its natural state of quiet. Both parks offer hiking opportunities. Rare winter snows are short-lived events and can only add to the beauty of these natural areas.

Park staff are here to help make your visit a truly memorable event. They will be happy to help you plan your visit and provide information. Guided tours at Carlsbad Caverns can enrich your park experience. These tours offer a variety of caving experiences, from easy lantern tours to challenging trips involving crawling and squeezing through tight passages.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park has over 80 miles of hiking trails to explore, ranging from wheelchair accessible paths to strenu-

ous mountain hikes, including an 8.4 mile roundtrip hike to Texas' highest mountain, Guadalupe Peak (8,749').

As you travel and spend time in the area please remember to keep safety in mind. Road conditions may be icy. Deer and other wildlife are plentiful—enjoy watching wildlife, but remember they often move across roads, especially in the evenings; be vigilant while driving during twilight hours. Hikers should be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions. Hikers can become dehydrated in our dry climate, so carry plenty of water (one gallon per person per day is recommended). Always check with a ranger before venturing into the backcountry.

We are wholeheartedly committed to our mission of preserving and providing for the enjoyment of our nation's most outstanding treasures. We wish you a rewarding experience in every way.

Sincerely,

John C. Benjamin
Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns NP

John V. Lujan
Superintendent
Guadalupe Mts. NP

Volunteerism Makes a Difference

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO the dedicated effort and talent that volunteers have brought to Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of preserving our natural and cultural heritage and sharing that heritage with the visiting public. Volunteers do everything from staffing the information desk, roving interpretation, patrolling surface and cave trails, to trail maintenance, research, cave restoration, and more. To become a volunteer contact:

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Dave Thomas

575-785-3097

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Dave Bierl

915-828-3251 ext. 112

Junior and Senior Ranger Programs

MANY NATIONAL PARKS ACROSS AMERICA OFFER A JUNIOR Ranger program for children to encourage interest in their national parks and to promote a sense of stewardship and ownership for these special places that they come to visit. This self-paced educational program allows children to earn a patch and/or certificate upon completion of required activities that teach them about park resources. Age appropriate activities are included in the Junior Ranger booklet, typically for pre-kindergarten through upper elementary-aged children.

Senior Ranger programs are a new development, currently available at limited locations, aimed at an audience that enjoys a challenge and wants to use an activity book to learn about the park and help plan their visit. Participants earn a badge and a certificate as well. A Senior Ranger program is available at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Junior Ranger program offers activities that teach children about the resources both above ground and below the surface (including plant and animal life of the desert, cave features, and history of the park). Younger children have opportunities to color and draw, find objects on a visual scavenger hunt, use their senses to experience their surroundings and complete games. Older children will sequence events, complete word searches and write

stories and poems. Each activity in the booklet is an optional activity depending on interest and age-level. Once the booklet is checked by a park ranger, the participant is presented a Carlsbad Caverns National Park Junior Ranger patch.

The Junior Ranger booklet is available through the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association bookstore, located in the visitor center at the park. There is a charge of \$1.00 to participate in the program, which includes the booklet and patch (given upon completion of the activities). Children of any age may participate.

At Guadalupe Mountains, children work through a separate activity booklet and visit points of interest within the park. The booklet accommodates families of varying travel plans. Many of the activities can be completed at the Headquarters Visitor Center located at Pine Springs. Children who complete three activities earn a badge and certificate, while those who do six earn a patch in addition to the badge and certificate. There is no charge for participation in the program, but donations are always welcome.

Senior Ranger books are available at the Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs for anyone 13 years and older. Activities include visiting sites, learning about the park's history, geology, flora and fauna. Upon completion, participants earn a patch and certificate.

Traveling with a Pet?

ON A WARM DAY THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE A CAR CAN KILL a pet. Do not leave your pets unattended.

At Carlsbad Caverns National Park, pets are not permitted in the cave or at bat flight programs. During the day, your pet may be cared for at the kennel for a small fee. A citation will be issued if animals are left in vehicles when ambient air temperatures are 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius) or higher.

At Guadalupe Mountains National Park, pets are not allowed on trails, in the backcountry, in buildings or at evening programs; they are permitted in the campground.

In any national park, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.



Photo by CorelDraw

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seen anywhere else in the world. A new formation type, Rustcicles, rusty red and black stalactites were discovered in Lechuguilla Cave. No other known cave in the world contains such a wide variety and abundance of cave minerals and formations.

The cave also contains fascinating microbes that we can’t see without the aid of a microscope. These microbes have adapted to a very low energy environment where there is very little organic material and no sunlight for photosynthesis. In fact due to the extremely starved environment that they have evolved in, some of these microbes appear to be “eating” iron and manganese in the bedrock to produce carbon energy. Researchers are continuing to study these microbes and what role they played in the past formation of the cave and what roles they play today. Some of these microbes may even prove to be useful to humans in the future as potentially new antibiotics, anti-fungals and cancer fighting agents.

For safety reasons, entering Lechuguilla Cave is limited to experienced cavers who have the skills and fitness to rappel and ascend numerous ropes into pits as deep as 300 feet and stay in the cave in established cave camps for as long as one week. To protect delicate cave formations, access is further limited to work trips such as exploration, survey and research. Some areas have hair-like filaments of gypsum that hang down as much as 15 feet from the ceiling and will move precariously from the heat produced by a single human body! To protect the unique microbes cavers take special precautions to avoid contaminating the cave with non-native microbes that live in and on all of our bodies. In a typical year, access



At the deep point of Lechuguilla Cave, strange formations called folia can be found on the walls and ceiling in the area known as Lake of the White Roses.

Photo by Aaron Stockton

to Lechuguilla Cave is limited to only 100 people.

The NPS Organic Act of 1916 established the dual fundamental purposes of the National Park Service “. . .to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Protecting resources while providing opportunities to enjoy them is the great challenge of the NPS. Carlsbad Caverns National Park manages the paved trails in Carlsbad Cavern as a place where anyone can come to enjoy the beautiful cave. Other caves, such as Lechuguilla Cave, are managed in a manner that conserves their pristine environments by only allowing a very limited number of people access. Even though very

few people have the opportunity to enter Lechuguilla Cave you can enjoy the cave by taking a virtual tour of Lechuguilla Cave on a 360 degree interactive computer tour at the Carlsbad Cavern-Guadalupe Mountain Association Bookstore while visiting the park. Or you can order a copy of the CD from <http://www.360parks.com/> or at <http://www.ccgma.org/>. Also available in the bookstore is a book containing excellent pictures of Lechuguilla Cave called “Lechuguilla, Jewel of the Underground.” Or try doing a web search on Lechuguilla Cave and see where your online explorations lead you.

Who knows what additional wonders you, your children and your grandchildren may one day learn about on a future trip to Carlsbad Caverns National Park due to the ongoing exploration and research discoveries in Lechuguilla Cave.

Visitor Center Renovations Begin!

by John C. Benjamin
Superintendent
Carlsbad Caverns National Park

On May 7, 1957, then-superintendent R. Taylor Hoskins noted in his monthly report to the National Park Service director that “(t)he visitor center is 93% complete. The painting of the exterior began on March 28. Most of the remaining work to be accomplished. . . includes landscaping, fence, terrace, wall and walks.” Upon its completion fifty years ago, the park visitor center was an example of modern conveniences and technology.

In April 2008, I hope to be able to say the same thing. What was once new and at the cutting edge of technology no longer works effectively or efficiently. So in July 2007, the park began its much-anticipated \$8.3 million rehabilitation of the visitor center.

The project will “gut” the entire 34,000-square-foot visitor center, leaving only structural and historic elevator building walls in place. It includes not only the National Park Service-operated areas, but also the concession-operated restaurant, gift shop and kennel as well as the Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association bookstore. Everyone that enters Carlsbad Cavern must come through the visitor center—and that won’t change when it’s renovated—but what will change is the fact that everything will be

in working order. The renovation includes new restroom facilities, a new commercial heating and air conditioning system, a new electrical system, a new fire sprinkler system, and new fire and intrusion alarm systems. And, all of this will be done with no break in visitor services. Visitors will still be able to go on any one of our six tours in Carlsbad Cavern—we are open! The spectacular, got-to-see-it-to-believe-it spectacle of Carlsbad Cavern will be as magnificent as ever!

During the renovation, all park operations and services—from ticket sales to the kennel—are in temporary trailers set up in the parking lot west of the visitor center. The underground lunchroom facilities will not be affected by the renovation and will operate as usual. Entrance to the cave is via a corridor through the visitor center construction zone to the elevators.

We know that there will be inconveniences to visitors and major challenges for park staff—with the type of operation we have here, there’s no way to avoid it. These inconveniences will be short-lived, and in the end, we’ll have a state-of-the-art building that will greatly enhance the visitor experience to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The renovated visitor center will be much more inviting and will greatly improve our ability to interpret this world-class resource to the public.



ParKids learn about the ecosystem in and around Sitting Bull Falls (Lincoln National Forest) with a Forest Service Ranger.

What happens when you cross a group of 9 to 12 year olds and a national park in the middle of the desert? The answer is ParKids, a day camp for local students who want to learn about the natural resources of the surrounding region and those unique to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Hands-on experiences assist the children in learning about the park and resource stewardship. They also learn about how they can practice resource conservation in their daily lives.

A thriving program since 1999, ParKids 2007 was a great success. Twelve participants attended each of the day camps, one held from June 4-8 and the second camp from June 11-15. The children were required to be members of the Carlsbad Boy’s and Girl’s Club, where the group met every morning before traveling to the scheduled location. The partners involved in this year’s camp included the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District, Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park, U.S. Forest Service, New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the National Park Service. Each day was filled with different activities,

ParKids 2007 Explore & Examine Their World

demonstrations and a variety of speakers from the community. These included learning about the snakes of the Chihuahuan Desert, how bats pollinate flowers and identifying what species of cacti grow in the park. The ParKids also learned how to identify fossils found in the area. By the end of the camp, children had completed hikes in both Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Lincoln National Forest.

All of these activities contributed greatly to the program’s mission of allowing children to gain an appreciation of the resources around them, ask questions and get their hands a little dirty. It is the hope of the Education Office at Carlsbad Caverns National Park that ParKids will continue to allow more kids to experience the beauty and complexity of the world around them.

by Jordan Brown and Amy Johnson

What’s in a Name?

You may hear rangers talk about Brazilian free-tail bats. You may read about them in the park’s informational brochures, books, and websites. You may hear or see the names – Mexican and Brazilian – used interchangeably. For years, people have called the area’s large colony *Mexican* free-tail bats. New studies suggest that we should be calling them, *Brazilian* free-tail bats. This name change is confusing for many, perhaps you, too.

The scientific name for Mexican (or is it Brazilian?) free-tail bat is *Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana*. This kind of bat is found throughout much of the southern and western United States, Central America, and western South America. Due to differences in size and habit, for several decades researchers believed that there were a handful of separate subspecies, the “Mexican” free-tail bat being one, as indicated by its last name. However, recent genetic research shows that the *Tadarida brasiliensis* bats across the US and Central America have the same genetic code, thus are in fact one species, not separate subspecies. (In other words, some say we should drop the *mexicana* part of the name.)

As is common in the scientific community, the findings are still being examined in depth. All have not agreed to adopt the idea that there are not various subspecies. So, what that means to you is that area parks, rangers, and researchers are using the terms Mexican and/or Brazilian. Keep in mind, that by any name, the famous colony of bats that emerges from Carlsbad Cavern is still the same kind of bat, no matter what it’s called. You may get a chance to see them if you are visiting between April and October.

Spring, Fall & Winter Hours	
Natural Entrance	8:30 - 2:00
Big Room	8:30 - 3:30
Visitor Center	8:00 - 5:00
Summer Hours (Memorial Day—Labor Day)	
Natural Entrance	8:30 - 3:30
Big Room	8:30 - 5:00
Visitor Center	8:00 - 7:00
Entrance Fees	
Adults—age 16 and older.....	\$6.00
Children—15 and younger.....	free
plus Audio Guide.....	\$3.00

There is no entrance fee for those who own any of the following passes (up to three individuals plus the cardholder): The Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass (all three are part of the America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass), National Parks Pass issued in 2006 and not yet expired, Golden Age Passport, Golden Eagle Passport issued in 2006 and not yet expired and Golden Access Passport all cover the basic entrance fee.

Entrance fee applies to self-guided tours. Guided tours require an additional fee.

All fees and tours are subject to change.

Reservations
We recommend that you make reservations for guided tours at least six weeks in advance. Some tours fill quickly. Reservations are not necessary for self-guided tours. To make reservations call the National Park Reservation System at: 877-444-6777 or visit www.Recreation.gov

Have a Safe Tour
Cave temperature is 56 degrees F (13 degrees C) year-round. A light jacket or sweater and good walking shoes are recommended. Do not wear sandals. For your safety:

- Stay on the paved trail.
- Supervise children closely; children under 16 must remain with an adult at all times.
- Ask park rangers for help.
- Take prescribed medications with you.
- High humidity in the cave can affect respiratory problems; bring your inhaler just in case.
- If you are **DIABETIC**, be sure you have eaten enough calories.
- If you have an infant with you, child-carrying backpacks are recommended. **Strollers are not allowed.**
- Leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car.

Protect the Cave

- Never touch, tap or handle the cave formations; the oils on your skin damage the formations.
- Never take gum, food or drinks into the cave.
- Never throw coins or other objects into the pools.

Photography
Photography is permitted on most tours; however, please use good etiquette. Warn those around you before you flash, keep tripods on the trail, and do not use the rocks as your personal tripod. Video cameras are permitted on the Big Room, Natural Entrance, and King's Palace tours. Please use caution and do not use the ultra-bright lights available on some cameras. Photography is **not** allowed at the Bat Flight Program offered from mid-May to mid-October.

Carlsbad Caverns Cave Tours



NATURAL ENTRANCE SELF-GUIDED ROUTE
Length: 1.25 miles, 1 hour
Fee: Entrance Fee
This hike is similar to walking into a steep canyon (a descent of about 800 feet in one mile). It is recommended only for those physically fit and healthy; sturdy footwear required. Highlights include the Natural Entrance, Devil's Spring, Whale's Mouth, and Iceberg Rock.



BIG ROOM SELF-GUIDED ROUTE
Length: 1.25 miles, 1.5 hours
Fee: Entrance Fee
Descend by elevator to start the tour in the Underground Rest Area. The non-skid trail is paved and mostly level, although there are a couple of short, steep hills. All visitors to Carlsbad Cavern should experience this tour. Highlights include the Lion's Tail, Hall of Giants, Bottomless Pit, and Rock of Ages. This trail can be navigated by wheelchairs, with assistance. The park does not provide wheelchairs. This trail can be accessed after hiking the 1.25 mile Natural Entrance Self-Guided Route.



KING'S PALACE GUIDED TOUR
Length: 1 mile, 1.5 hours
Fee: Entrance Fee and \$8.00 Tour Ticket
Tours depart from the Underground Rest Area. Tickets may be purchased at the visitor center; however, reservations are recommended. You will visit four highly decorated chambers: King's Palace, Papoose Room, Queen's Chamber and Green Lake Room. The tour guide will turn out the lights for a blackout experience. The trail is paved; however, there is a steep hill that you must walk down and then back up.



LEFT HAND TUNNEL
On this lantern-lit tour your guide will highlight cavern history, formations, cave pools and Permian Age fossils. This is the easiest of the adventure tours on unpaved trails. Be aware that the dirt trail winds over small uneven or slippery slopes and careful footing is required to avoid cavern pools and fragile formations. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby.



LOWER CAVE
This moderately strenuous tour begins with a ranger-supervised descent down a 10-foot flowstone slope using a knotted rope, followed by a 50-foot series of three ladders. Bring gloves, four AA alkaline batteries per person and optional kneepads. The park provides helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby. You will see evidence of early exploration, cave pools and beautiful formations.



SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE
This moderately strenuous tour is through a well-decorated backcountry cave. It is mandatory for each person to bring two flashlights with fresh batteries. Penlights are not sufficient. The route is slippery, muddy and may require an ascent of a 15-foot slope using a knotted rope.

Do not drive to the visitor center for this cave tour.



HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT
This is a strenuous, challenging tour to a remote chamber in Carlsbad Cavern. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices and climb up slippery passages. Bring gloves, kneepads and four AA batteries per person. We provide helmets and headlamps. Tour departs from the visitor center lobby.



SPIDER CAVE
On this strenuous tour you can expect tight crawls, canyon-like passages and bizarre formations. Bring gloves, kneepads and four new AA batteries per person. The park provides helmets and headlamps. The tour departs from the visitor center for a short drive and then a short hike to the cave. Bring water for the hike.



For Reservations call 877-444-6777

Tour	Trail Surface	Offered	Departure Time	Adult Fee	Age Limit	Tour Length	Group Size
King's Palace	Paved Trail; 80' hill must be climbed on return trip	Daily	Summer 10, 11, 2 & 3 Fall-Spring 10 & 2	Adults \$8 Children (6-15) \$4 Children (4-5) Free A General Admission Ticket is also required.	4	1.5 hours	75
Left Hand Tunnel	Uneven dirt trail and slippery slopes	Daily	9:00 a.m.	\$7.00 and General Admission Ticket	6	2 hours	15
Lower Cave	Must negotiate fifty feet of ladders, variable dirt trails, might get dirty.	Monday through Friday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket	12	3 hours	12
Slaughter Canyon Cave	Strenuous climb required to reach cave entrance. Trail in cave is slippery, uneven and rocky.	Saturday and Sunday (Tours offered daily in summer.)	Summer 10:00 & 1:00 Fall through Spring 10:00 a.m.	\$15.00	6	2 hours	25
Wild Caving—kneepads required							
Hall of the White Giant	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Saturday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00 and General Admission Ticket	12	4 hours	8
Spider Cave	Climbing and crawling, tight squeezes, drop-offs, will get dirty	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	\$20.00	12	4 hours	8

Surface Activities

SERVICES
Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, bookstore, restaurant, gift shop and kennel service. Ranger programs are offered daily. Other activities include:

NATURE TRAIL
This one-mile paved, partially accessible trail begins near the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

SCENIC DRIVE
A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5 mile gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except trailers and motor homes. Brochures are available for 50 cents. The scenic drive is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. mid-May to mid-October. It is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-October to mid-May. These hours are subject to change.

RATTLESNAKE SPRINGS
This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms and excellent bird watching. Located 5.5 miles south of White's City on U.S. Highway 62/180, then 2.5 miles west to County Road 418. Day use only.

HIKING & CAMPING
The park's wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. The bookstore sells topographic maps, which are considered essential for desert hiking.

BAT FLIGHT PROGRAMS (SUMMER ONLY)
A few hundred thousand bats fly from Carlsbad Cavern each evening from mid-May until the bats migrate to Mexico sometime in mid-October. The ranger program generally begins each evening 30 to 60 minutes before sunset at the park amphitheater, though weather and lightning can cause cancellation of the program. Check at the visitor center for the exact time the program starts or call 505-785-3012. Cameras are **not allowed**. The lights and high frequency sounds made by the cameras disturb the bats. This rule is strictly enforced.



America the Beautiful—The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass



ANNUAL PASS
The America the Beautiful—National Parks & Federal Recreational Annual Pass replaces the Golden Eagle Passport, the National Parks Pass, and the National Parks Pass with Golden Eagle Sticker. The annual pass will be replaced each year. A Federal Lands photo contest will be held each year. The grand prize winning image will be featured on the subsequent year's annual pass. Information on the current contest for the 2008 annual pass image can be found at <http://www.sharetheexperience.org>.

The annual pass sells for \$80.00 and is good for one year from date of purchase. The pass covers entrance fees at National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and Forest Service sites. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



SENIOR PASS
The new Senior Pass replaces the Golden Age Passport. Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored.

The Senior Pass sells for \$10.00 and is good for life. Any permanent resident of the United States 62 years or older may purchase the Senior Pass.

It covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service Sites. Camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



ACCESS PASS
The new Access Pass replaces the Golden Access Passport. Existing Golden Access Passports will continue to be honored.

The Access Pass is available for free to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of any age that has been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities.

The Access Pass covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife sites and standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service Sites. Camping and guided tour fees are discounted 50% for cardholders. The pass can be purchased at federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NP ANNUAL PASS
Guadalupe Mountains National Park offers an annual pass for \$20.00 for regional visitors who plan on visiting the park more than once a year, but may not visit other federal fee areas.

The pass covers entrance fees and is good for 3 individuals plus the cardholder (persons 15 years and younger are free with or without the Guadalupe Mountains NP Annual Pass). The pass is available for purchase at the park.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park



NPS Photo/Michael Haynie

Entrance Fee \$5.00/person (16 & older)
SERVICES
Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. The nearest gasoline stations are 32 miles west or 35 miles east. There is no campstore; bring everything you need with you.

INFORMATION & EXHIBITS
Headquarters Visitor Center
Elevation 5,730'. On U.S. Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad and 110 miles east of El Paso. Open every day except Christmas. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone); after Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

Frijole Ranch History Museum
The ranch house features exhibits describing historic and current use of the Guadalupe. Grounds include a picnic area near a spring shaded by large oak trees. Restroom available. Staffed intermittently.

McKittrick Canyon
Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. During daylight savings time, hours are expanded 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Restrooms, outdoor exhibits, slide program, picnic tables.

Hike Safely...

- There is no water available along park trails, so be sure to bring plenty with you. One gallon per person per day is recommended.
- Trails are rocky—wear sturdy shoes.
- Carry a trail map.
- Pack warm clothing and rain gear; sudden weather changes are common.

Protect the Park...

- Stay on trails; don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.
- Carry out all trash, including cigarette butts.
- Report any trail hazards to the visitor center.
- Collecting of natural, historic or prehistoric objects are prohibited.

Weather

	Average Temperature		Average Rainfall
	High	Low	
Jan	56	34	0.67
Feb	59	36	0.90
Mar	65	41	0.58
Apr	73	48	0.60
May	82	56	0.91
June	88	62	2.18
July	88	64	2.37
Aug	86	63	3.29
Sep	81	58	2.54
Oct	73	50	1.34
Nov	63	41	0.97
Dec	56	33	1.05
Average annual precipitation for Pine Springs (1980-2003)			17.4



NPS Photo/Michael Haynie

HIKING
Pinery Trail
Distance: .67 mile
Difficulty: Easy, wheelchair accessible, slight incline on return trip.
Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits.

McKittrick Canyon Trail
Distance: to Pratt Cabin 4.8 miles roundtrip, to the Grotto, 6.8 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Moderate, level but rocky trail, 200' elevation gain to Grotto.
Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guidebook is available at the trailhead. One mile beyond the Pratt Cabin is the Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin. Please do not drink the water or wade in the creek. To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.

Guadalupe Peak Trail
Distance: 8.4 miles
Difficulty: Strenuous. Approximately 3,000' elevation gain, steep, rocky path.
Hike to the "Top of Texas" at 8,749' for spectacular views. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms. During warm temperatures carry a gallon of water per person.



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri

CAMPING
Water and restrooms are available, but there are no showers, RV hookups, or dump stations. The fee is \$8.00 per night, per site, \$4.00 with a Senior Pass (or existing Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (or existing Golden Access Passport). No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Pine Springs Campground
Located near the Headquarters Visitor Center, there are twenty tent and nineteen RV campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning 915-828-3251 up to 60 days in advance. Hikers planning on hiking in McKittrick Canyon, to Guadalupe Peak or the Bowl will want to stay here.

Dog Canyon Campground
Located at the end of New Mexico Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and 110 miles from Park Headquarters, at an elevation of 6,290' in a secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park. The campground has nine tent and four RV campsites. There is one group site for groups of 10-20 people. Reservations for the group site only can be made up to 60 days in advance by calling 915-828-3251.



NPS Photo

BACKPACKING
Eighty-five miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and desert. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station. For those coming through Carlsbad, Dog Canyon is a great place to begin a backpacking trip because it requires less elevation gain to get into the backcountry.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Pets are not allowed on park trails. Firearms are not permitted within the park.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry. Topographic maps, hikers' guides, and information can be found at the Headquarters Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Trailhead	Trail	Distance Roundtrip	Description
Visitor Center	Pinery Trail	.67 miles	Easy. Discover the desert as you walk to the ruins of the Pinery, a stagecoach station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route in 1858. Trailside exhibits; wheelchair accessible, slight incline on return trip.
Pine Springs Campground	Guadalupe Peak Trail	8.4 miles	Strenuous. Hike to the "Top of Texas" at 8,749' for spectacular views. Trail climbs approximately 3,000 feet in elevation. Steep, rocky path. Avoid the peak during high winds and thunderstorms.
	Devil's Hall Trail	4.2 miles	Moderate. Rocky hike in Pine Spring Canyon to the Hikers' Staircase and Devil's Hall. After the first mile, the trail drops into the wash. Turn left and follow the canyon bottom to Devil's Hall, where a sign marks the end of the trail.
	The Bowl	9.1 miles	Strenuous. The Bowl shelters a highcountry conifer forest. Recommended route: Tejas Trail to Pine Top, Bowl Trail to Hunter Peak, Bear Canyon Trail, Frijole Trail back to campground. Trail climbs 2,500'. Bear Canyon Trail is very rocky and extremely steep.
	El Capitan Trail	11.3 miles	Strenuous. Desert lovers will appreciate the rocky arroyos and open vistas while skirting along the base of El Capitan. Recommended route: El Capitan Trail, Salt Basin Overlook, and return to Pine Springs on the El Capitan Trail.
Frijole Ranch	Manzanita Spring	.4 miles	Easy. Path is paved and wheelchair accessible. Hike to a small pond that serves as a desert oasis. Dragonflies, butterflies, and birds are active here in the warmer months. During winter, bluebirds frequent the area. Opportunities for chancing upon other wildlife are higher here as well.
	Smith Spring Trail (entire loop)	2.3 miles	Moderate. Look for birds, deer and elk as you pass Manzanita Spring on the way to the shady oasis of Smith Spring. Trees around Smith Spring include madrones, maples, oaks, chokecherry, ponderosa pines and others.
McKittrick Canyon	McKittrick Canyon Trail	4.8 miles	Moderate. Follow an intermittent stream through the desert and canyon woodlands to the historic Pratt Cabin. A guide book is available at the trailhead. The Grotto Picnic Area and Hunter Line Cabin is one mile beyond the Pratt Cabin. Please do not wade in the creek. To protect this fragile environment, you are required to stay on the trail.
	McKittrick Nature Loop	0.9 miles	Moderate. Climb the foothills and learn about the natural history of the Chihuahuan Desert. Trailside exhibits.
	Permian Reef Trail	8.4 miles	Strenuous. For serious geology buffs, this trail has stop markers that can be used with a geology guidebook sold at the Visitor Center. There are excellent views into McKittrick Canyon from the ridgetop. Trail climbs 2,000'.
Dog Canyon	Indian Meadow Nature Loop	0.6 miles	Easy. A guide pamphlet describes ecology and geology.
	Marcus Overlook	4.6 miles	Moderate. Follow the Bush Mountain Trail to the ridgetop for a view into West Dog Canyon. Trail climbs 800'.
	Lost Peak	6.4 miles	Strenuous. Climb out of Dog Canyon on the Tejas Trail to visit the conifer forest above. Outstanding views from Lost Peak. Lost Peak is a short distance off trail to the right before the horse hitches. Trail climbs 1,500'.

The Cat with Many Names

HOW MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS live in Guadalupe Mountains National Park? Known by over 40 different names in English (more than any other animal in the world), mountain lions are often called cougars, pumas and panthers. Estimating the population size of an animal as wide-ranging and secretive as the mountain lion is extremely difficult, and any numbers arrived at should be viewed with a degree of skepticism. Based on estimates by scientists, considering factors such as suitable habitat, available prey base and studies from analogous areas, 3 to 8 adult lions could be roaming Guadalupe Mountains National Park. In Texas, mountain lions are legally classified as varmints, which results in no restrictions or regulations on the number of lions killed or the time of year that killing takes place. Within the boundaries of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, mountain lions are protected by law and recognized as a valuable and essential part of the ecosystem’s healthy functioning.

The cat is only in the western hemisphere and is one of the largest predatory animals of the Americas; it is only exceeded by the jaguar. An adult lion can weigh as much as 150 pounds and be more than 8 feet long from nose to tail. Females weigh about 90 pounds and can be 7 feet long. Mountain lions can live in habitat that ranges from sea level to 14,765 feet and can survive in dense forests of the Pacific Northwest, the desert Southwest and the Florida Everglades.

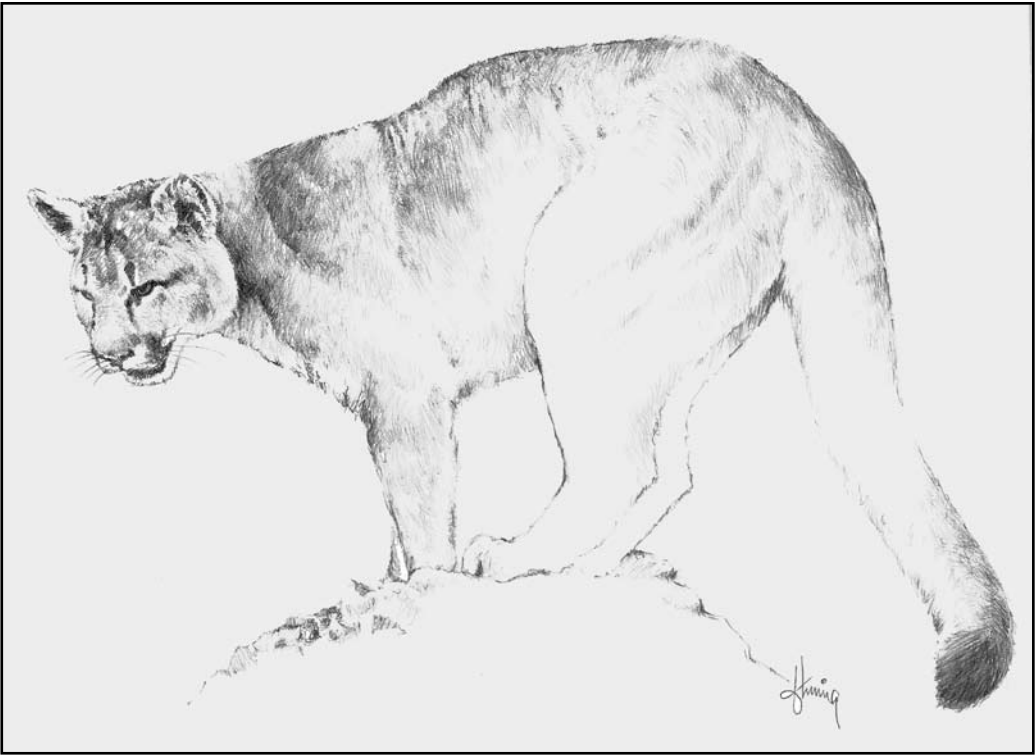
Mountain lions are usually solitary and strongly territorial. Just one lion can reign up

By Sarah Renee Furtney

to 300 square miles, males generally having bigger territories than females. Because males disperse further than females and compete more directly for mates and territory, they are most likely to be involved in conflict. The size of a mountain lion’s home range and an area’s population will depend on terrain, vegetation and prey abundance. They are known to travel long distances in search of food, as much as 25 miles in one night.

Labeled as a very successful predator, the mountain lion will eat any animal it can catch, from insects to large ungulates. Throughout its range in North America, various ungulates are its number one prey item and vary from mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and even the occasional moose. Studies on mountain lion scat collected within Guadalupe Mountains National Park show that mule deer are the most commonly consumed prey. Rabbits were also eaten with some frequency. Porcupines, minus the quills of course, are even sometimes consumed.

The mountain lion does not run long distances to catch its prey; rather it is an ambush predator. It stalks through bushes, tall grass and trees before jumping or pouncing onto its prey. They have large paws with retractable one-inch claws used for gripping power, while the lion delivers a lethal suffocating neck bite or one that paralyzes the animal by severing its spinal cord. Mountain lions can live off one large deer for up to two weeks at a time. However, a female with



kittens, can have kills every three days. They drag their prey to a safe location and are known to conceal it with brush and sticks. They will revisit the site later to continue feeding. Cougars rarely scavenge and will usually not eat prey that they have not killed.

Visual sightings of mountain lions are relatively rare events. They generally stay away from people. At times, if you are lucky and sight a lion, it is more likely that its approach is due to curiosity. Try to look bigger by gathering together with fellow hikers, raising your arms above your head, or opening your jacket wide. If hiking with small children, pick them up. Never run from a mountain lion or turn your back on it. Speak firmly and let the lion make its escape. If an attack seems imminent, prepare to defend yourself. Mountain lion attacks in other parts of the country have been stopped by

people fighting back with sticks, rocks and even bare hands. No attacks have occurred at Guadalupe Mountains National Park. The fear of cougars is mostly based on its mysterious ways, its size and power to do harm, not its aggressiveness. In 2006, there were four sightings of mountain lions by visitors and park staff. With 174,000 people visiting in that same year, you can see the chance of encountering a mountain lion is extremely low.

Theodore Roosevelt describes it best when he said, “The cougar is large and powerful, and very capable to attack man; yet, the instances of it having done so are exceedingly rare. But it is foolish to deny that such attacks on humans never occur...It cannot be too often repeated that we must never lose sight of the individual variation in character and conduct among wild beasts.”

From the CCGMA Bookstore

The Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association (CCGMA) is a private, nonprofit organization whose main objectives are to provide interpretation for the park visitor and to support the purposes and mission of the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and the lands related to them in New Mexico and West Texas since 1957. To date, CCGMA has donated over \$2.7 million to both Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. The goals of CCGMA are accomplished through educational programs using a variety of educational media and scientific investigations resulting in a greater appreciation of those resources being conserved for this and future generations. CCGMA has 3 retail bookstore outlets located at Carlsbad Caverns, the Guadalupe Mountains, and the administration office building in the city of Carlsbad

Books may also be purchased by mail or online.
PO Box 1417
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(505) 785-2486
(505) 785-2318 FAX
www.ccgma.org

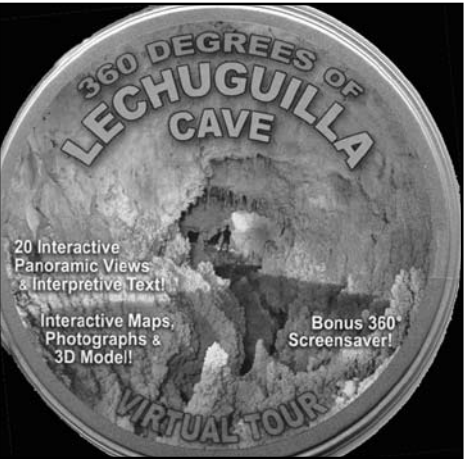
Consider joining CCGMA. As a member you will receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases. This discount is extended to several cooperating associations of other national parks as well. You will also receive the CCGMA newsletter and the Visitor

Guide for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks (2 issues a year). In addition to these benefits, you will receive a free book on the work of artist Clark Cox or a coffee mug. Most importantly, your contribution helps further our mission of providing aid to these parks.

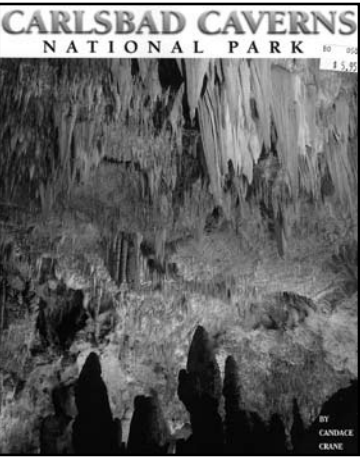
Membership (1 year)	\$25.00
The Guadalupe	\$ 4.00
Stories from Stones	\$ 7.95
Trails of the Guadalupe	\$ 5.00
Carlsbad Caverns National Park:	
Worlds of Wonder	\$ 6.95
Lechugilla Cave CD	\$ 19.95

Purchases may be made by credit card or check. Include your address and daytime phone number. If ordering by credit card include the card number, the date of expiration, and the signature of the cardholder. The following cards are accepted: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. Make checks payable to CCGMA.

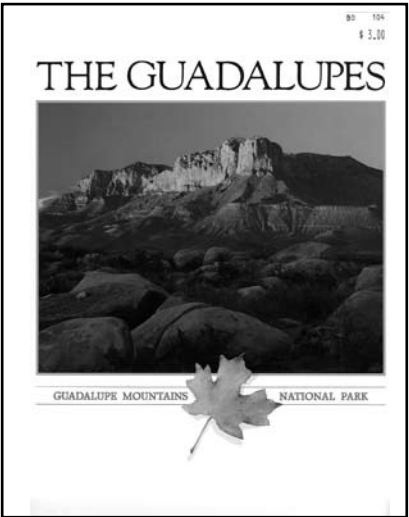
Shipping and handling charges for book orders are as follows:
\$4.00 for purchases up to \$15.00
\$5.00 for purchases \$15.01-30.00
\$6.00 for purchases \$30.01-50.00



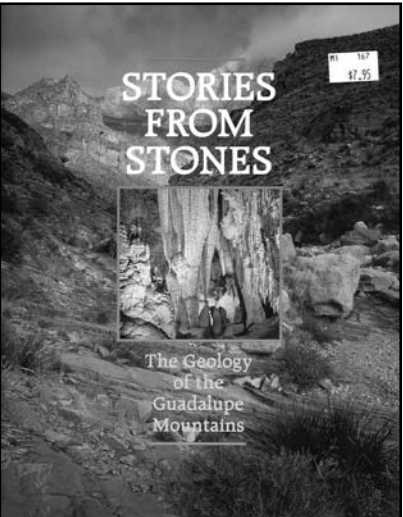
This CD includes 20 interactive views of the park’s longest cave with interpretive text, maps, photographs with a bonus screensaver and a 3D map. \$19.95



This book covers the formation of the Guadalupe Mountains, the creation and discovery of Carlsbad Cavern, history, bats, and Lechuguilla Cave. Color photography, 56 pages, 9x12 inches. \$6.95



This picture book provides a general overview of Guadalupe Mountains National Park history, biodiversity, and geology. Full color photography throughout, 32 pages, 8.5 x 11 in. \$4.00



A thorough, but still accessible, discussion on Guadalupe Mountains’ geology. Includes sections on cave and speleothem formation. Color photography, 40 pages, 8.5 x 11 inches. \$7.95

Nearby Attractions

LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS STATE PARK
575-887-5516
Come face to face with a mountain lion at this unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, the state bird of New Mexico. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of Carlsbad, just off Highway 285 and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.

Open daily except December 25.
Wheelchair accessible.

Summer Hours
(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Last tour entry—6:30 p.m.
Winter Hours (after Labor Day)
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Last tour entry—3:30 p.m.

Fees
Ages 13 and up \$5.00
Children 7 - 12 \$3.00
Children 6 and under free
Group (20+) discount available.



NPS Photo

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
575-885-4181
The forest encompasses 285,000 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Maps are available at the Guadalupe Ranger District Office located in the Federal Building, 114 S. Halagueno, Room 159, in Carlsbad.



NPS Photo

Sitting Bull Falls
(in Lincoln National Forest)
Wheelchair accessible.
Day use only—no camping.
Entrance fee—\$5.00 per vehicle.

Seven miles southwest of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 276, this 130 foot falls is one of the highest in New Mexico. Picnic area, trails and restroom.



NPS Photo



NPS Photo

Five Points & Indian Vistas
Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540, an improved gravel road. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.

BRANTLEY LAKE STATE PARK
575-457-2384
Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. Highway 285, the campground has 51 RV sites with water and RV electric hookups (a few with sewer), a dump station, playground, restroom with hot showers, shelters, tables and grills. Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered tables and grills, playground, a fishing dock, boat ramps with docks, and a visitor center.

Open all year—24 hours/day.
Wheelchair accessible.

Fees
Day Use Only—\$5.00 per vehicle
Camping—\$14.00 per night (\$10.00 for each additional vehicle driven into the same site)
Primitive Camping Area—\$8.00 per vehicle per night.

FALL COLORS AT GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



NPS Photo/Dave Bieri

Located 55 miles south of Carlsbad, NM on Hwy 62/180 and 65 miles north of Van Horn, TX on Hwy 54, the park offers a range of hiking trails through wooded canyons that blaze with color from late October to early November. Call 915-828-3251 for updates on the color progression.

Fees
\$5.00 per person (16 years and older)

Hours
McKittrick Canyon
Through November 4, 2007
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)
After November 4, 2007
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time)

The best color viewing is in McKittrick Canyon between the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. The roundtrip distance for the Pratt Cabin hike is 5 miles and takes 2-3 hours to complete. The roundtrip distance for the Grotto Hike is 7 miles and takes 4-5 hours to complete. Both hikes are on level, but rocky trails. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

There are no restrooms available in McKittrick Canyon. Hikers must carry their own food and water. Picnic tables can be found at the Pratt Cabin and the Grotto. Please pack out all of your trash.

Weekends can be very busy. To avoid crowds, try visiting on weekdays or hiking in Devil's Hall or Dog Canyon as alternatives.

